

GRAUSTARK

#303

29 December 1973

1973 BB "Winter 1906-Spring 1907"
FOUR-POWER ALLIANCE REPELS RUSSIANS

Following "Fall 1906" moves, Italy retreated A Ven-Tus. Turkey then built F Ank & A Smy, Russia built F Sev, and Italy removed F Rom.

ENGLAND (Eisen): F Nth S FRENCH F NAT-Nrg; F Edi S F Nth; A Cly holds.

FRANCE (Strauss): F NAT-Nrg; F Hol S ENGLISH F Nth; F Hel-Kie; A Bur-Mun; A Ruh & A Tyr S A Bur-Mun; F Tyr holds.

GERMANY (Sidor): F Den S RUSSIAN A Kie; A Mun S RUSSIAN A Kie.

ITALY (Heuer): A Tus-Rom; A Nap-Apu; F Ion S TURKISH F Eas-Aeg.

RUSSIA (Honig): F Bar-Nwy; F Ska S GERMAN F Den; F Nrg S ENGLISH F Edi-Nth; F Bal S A Kie; A Kie S GERMAN A Mun; A Ber S GERMAN A Mun; A Sil-Boh; A Vie-Bud; A Gal-Rum; F Sev S A Gal-Rum; F Aeg-Jon.

TURKEY (Paulson): A Ven-Tri; F Adr S A Ven-Tri; F Tri-Alb; F Ank-Con; A Smy S F Ank-Con; F Eas-Aeg; F Gre-Bul(s.c.); A Rum-Bul.

Underlined moves are not possible. Germany retreats A Mun-Sil, Russia retreats F Nrg-Bar, and Turkey retreats A Rum-Ser. The Russian F Aeg is annihilated. The deadline for "Fall 1907" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 19 JANUARY 1973.

JERUSALEM (Mar. 30, 1907, Taped in the Harem): Tsar: "Jerry, come back, all is forgiven. I'll even give you Constantinople." Sultan (snicker): "I'll think about it (ha ha)."

JERUSALEM (May 1, 1907, from the Harem): Constantinople is revenged! The Russian tugboat fleet in the Aegean is destroyed!"

LFSBOS (URRP): "If the Sultan thinks that my ship is a tugboat," said Mme. Pulyerpantzoff at her local recruiting office, "he's got real troubles!"

1973 BC "Spring 1905"

EAGLE-FLICKING CONTEST BEGINS

ENGLAND (Stehle): F Swe-Den; F Nth S F Swe-Den; A Liv-Wal; F Lon S A Liv-wal; F Nwy S RUSSIAN A St.P.

FRANCE (Model): F Mar-Lyo; F Mid S F Eng; F Eng S A Bel; A Bel S A Hol; A Ruh-Kie; A Hol S A Ruh-Kie; A Bur-Mun.

GERMANY (Scanlan): No moves received. F Kie & A Mun hold; A Den dislodged and annihilated.

ITALY (Paul): A Rom-Apu; F Nap S A Rom-Apu; F Tun-Ion.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Lipton): A Mos holds; A War-Sil; A Vie-Tyr; F Ven-Adr; A Tri-Ven; A Bud-Gal; A Boh S GERMAN A Mun.

RUSSIA (Drakert): A St.P-Nwy; A Ber S GERMAN F Kie.

TURKEY (Carroll): F Ion-Nap; A Apu S F Ion-Nap; F Eas-Ion; F Aeg & F Gre S F Eas-Ion; A Sev holds.

Underlined moves are not possible. The deadline for "Fall 1905" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 19 JANUARY 1974. Press releases are on p. 7.

Since Bill Scanlan missed the "Spring 1905" moves for Germany, Joseph Pickard is asked to send in the stand-by "Fall 1905" moves for that country. See GRAUSTARK #302, p. 11, for his address and other details on stand-by status. Donald Stehle, playing England, has a new address; see p. 2.

LATE ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Postal Service has postponed the effective date of the rate increase to 2 March. This makes the subscription rate increase on p. 11 premature; subscriptions will remain at the old rate of 8 issues for \$1 until then. It also seems that the (continued on p. 3)

MAILING LIST: ADDENDA & ERRATA

The following information updates the mailing list published in GRAUSTARK #298, and its supplement published in #301. Like the "New Blood" list which follows, it is accurate to 28 December 1973.

John Arensmeyer (1973BQ-E), 41-1025 Nenue St., Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795
 Robert O. Blau (308)
 Philip M. Cohen (326)
 David A. Darden (339), 241 Cherry St., Farmingdale, N. Y. 11735
 Matthew Diller (307), 8507 Avon St., Jamaica, N. Y. 11432
 Greg Dority (T), 302 W. 15th St., Washington, N. C. 27889
 John and Lorna Fernandes (C), 1640 Ocean Parkway, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11230
 Nelson Flynn (315), 211 Harrison St., West Lafayette, Ind. 47906
 Richard F. Geis (C), P. O. Box 11408, Portland, Ore. 97211
 Adam Gilinsky (332), River Road, Scarborough, N. Y. 10510
 David B. Lagerson (317), 19017 Vanowen, Reseda, Calif. 91335
 Robert Bryan Lipton (1973BC-A, T), 556 Green Pl., Woodmore, N. Y.
 11598 (temporarily until about 21 January 1974)
 George Lewrance (315)
 John P. McKeon (314)
 Al Nofi (C), go Strategy & Tactics
 Terry Paul (1973BC-I), 119 E. State St., Fox Lake, Wisc. 53933
 Michael Pecht (308), 2455 Huntingdon Pike, Huntingdon Valley, Penn. 19006
 Kenneth C. Potts (340), 1223 Glen Terrace, Glassboro, N. J. 08028
 Douglas Reif (324)
 Len Scensny (318)
 Jeanne & Ted Stearn (309), 15 Bishop Hollow Rd., Media, Penn. 19063
 Donald E. Stehle (1973BC-E+6), c/o Howard Johnson Motor Lodge, Manchester, N. H. 03102; 603-668-2600 (person-to-person only)
 Joe Wetherell (310), 300 Norman Rd., Camp Hill, Penn. 17011
 Stan Wróbel (T), 7 Polish Village Blvd., Poland, Ohio 44514

NEW BLOOD - VII

This list of people who have inquired about GRAUSTARK updates the previous list, published in #301.

Paul Boddorf, 6 Red Rock Road, New City, N. Y. 10956
 Richard C. Carlston, Crystal Growth Section, E. G. & G., 130 Robin Hill Road, Golota, Calif. 93017
 Ed Connery, 1712 N. Harrison St., Arlington, Va. 22205
 John Curran, 1526 Beach Ave., Bronx, N. Y.
 Dennis Fischman, 6340 Darlington Rd., Pittsburgh, Penn. 15217
 Walter Haas, 4053 Basel, Achilles Bischoff-Strasse, SWITZERLAND
 David Hecht, 3 E. 71st St., New York, N. Y. 10021
 Richard L. Kleiber, Chairman, Social Studies Department, Hastings Senior High School, 1100 W. 14th St., Hastings, Nebr. 68901
 Gary O. Leppert, 3367 McKenzie, Memphis, Tenn. 38118
 William Meneguzzi, #231, 1275 University Ave., Sacramento, Calif. 95825
 J. Miller, Caltex Oil (S.A.) Pty., Ltd., P. O. Box 714, Cape Town,
 SOUTH AFRICA
 Frank Pruden, 107A Elmwood Terrace, Elmwood Park, N. J. 07407
 PFC Abram Ratner, 141-38-5793, FAC Division, USA MERDC, Ft. Belvoir, Va. 22060
 Ron Stadsklev, Institute of Higher Education, Box 6293, University, Ala. 35486
 Steve Tissenbaum, #104, 45 Brittany, Montreal, P. Q., CANADA H3P 1A3
 Anthony Ward, 3262 N. E. 88th, Portland, Ore. 97220
 Robert J. Wartenberg, 38 State St., Saratoga Springs, N. Y. 12866
 Bruce E. Wayman, c/o General Delivery, Saratoga Springs, N. Y. 12866

73.20b

"Fall 1936"

"WACHT AM RHEIN" TRANSLATED INTO ENGLISH

Following "Spring 1936" placements no attacks were ordered, and Britain refused to share controls in the Rhineland.

FRANCE: Als C, Pol U.

The score is now France 8, Russia 5, Britain 5, Germany 4, USA 0. The deadline for "Spring 1937" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 19 JANUARY 1974. A press release appears on p. 7. Owing to the rather irregular moves submitted by the USA player in this and other games, Evan Jones is appointed stand-by and should send in "Spring 1937" moves just in case!

	USA	Fra	Bri	Rus	Ger
Als		C			
Aus					C
Bal					
Bri					
Cze			2		
Fra					
Ger			C		
Ita					
Pol					
Rhi	6	U, 5	3		
Rum			5		
Rus			2	5	7
USA				3	

1971BG

BLACK POWER PIVOTAL

"Winter 1911"

Correction: The "Fall 1911" Italian move A Ven-Pie failed.

ENGLAND (Lipson): Builds A Lon, F Edi. ITALY (Burley): Builds A Rom.

GERMANY (Schleicher): Removes A Bur. RUSSIA (A. Phillips): Builds A War. The deadline for "Spring 1912" moves remains 6 PM, TUESDAY 15 JANUARY 1974. The Gamesmaster, John Beshara, wishes everyone Happiness for All Seasons.

1973BQ

THE REDCOATS ARE COMING

"Winter 1904"

The German "Fall 1904" moves A Mun-Bur, A Ber-Mun should have been underlined in GRAUSTARK #302, because the French A Bur was not dislodged. All players were informed over a week ago if they had builds or removals. ENGLAND (Arensmeier): No moves received. AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Lariton): Builds F

ceived. Gamesmaster removes F Nrg./Tri, A Vie, A Bud.

TURKEY (De Prisco): Removes A Alb.

The deadline for "Spring 1905" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 19 JANUARY 1974. Since Andrew Weill, playing France, missed the "Fall 1904" moves, Edward Kollmer should send in stand-by "Spring 1905" moves for him. Joseph Pickard should send in stand-by "Spring 1905" moves for England. See GRAUSTARK #302, p. 11, for their addresses and other information.

1973BS

FRENCH SUFFREN FROM SEASICKNESS

"Winter 1904"

Following "Fall 1904" moves, France retreated F Mid-Spa(s.c.).

ENGLAND (Martin Ritter): No moves received. GERMANY (G. Tesser): Removes A Ber.

Gamesmaster removes F Mid. A Pru.

FRANCE (Lanham): Builds F Bre, F Mar. ITALY (Murray): Builds F Nap.

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY (Lariton): Builds A Vie.

The deadline for "Spring 1905" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 19 JANUARY 1974. Joseph Pickard should send in stand-by "Spring 1905" moves for England; see GRAUSTARK #302, p. 11 for his address and other information. Although Pickard did send in a stand-by order for the last Turkish move, it could not have affected the play of the game, so he is being asked to stand by for another country in the same game. Press releases appear on p. 7.

LATE ANNOUNCEMENTS (continued from p. 1)

Overseas half-ounce airmail rate will rise to 18¢ for this hemisphere and to 26¢ for the other.

Peter Ansoff is back publishing again, so trade relations with him are still in effect despite the announcement on p. 8.

HOW TO LIVE OFF OTHER PEOPLE'S LAND

Section XVIII - Abduction of Women

by Yang the Nauseating

Recently we have seen a revival of interest in woodscraft, as people head for unspoiled areas to live off the land. Some interesting ideas on this timely topic are presented in the Dark Horde Survival Handbook and Training Manual, written by Bob Asprin, a/k/a Yang the Nauseating. Yang is commander of the Dark Horde, a barbarian tribe which may be seen in action at Eastern and Midwestern musters of the Society for Creative Anachronism. The Dark Horde is now preparing its 1976 Bicentennial Festival event - the sack of Baltimore.

Okay. You've slain the men and put the town to the torch. Assuming you are not seriously injured, have managed to duck Guard Duty and Body Count, and are sufficiently satisfied with your current accumulation of wealth that you feel it unnecessary to lurk suspiciously nearby while the loot is being divided, you are now ready for the more leisurely pleasures of a raiding party: calling on the women. That is, if they'll stand still long enough. Across your path scampers a comely young wench, half mad with terror. What do you do? If you have chosen this crucial moment to read this portion of your handbook, forget it! You might as well pack it in for the day because a) she's long gone now, and b) if you have to look in the handbook to find out what to do, you simply aren't in the mood, so you might as well stand guard and free another Brother for an evening on the town!

If, however, you're merely browsing through the handbook during a break in the march hoping to pick up a few pointers for future reference - read on!

The first thing to remember, no matter how difficult it may seem, is to NEVER APPROACH A WOMAN UNTIL YOU ARE SURE SHE IS UNARMED! Even though she may be half naked and sobbing hysterically, she can still kill you. The female is the deadlier of the species. That tattered piece of garment she's clutching about her only means that someone else tried to remove it from her and failed. Simply try to imagine what would happen if someone tried to force his attention on one of the women of your yurt when she wasn't willing. APPROACH WITH EXTREME CAUTION AND SEARCH FOR WEAPONS IMMEDIATELY! Remember, the custom of stripping captives has a practical as well as an aesthetic origin!

Where were we? Oh, yes! She's sprinting across your path - Your first problem is obviously to stop her without injuring her permanently. The easiest and safest way to accomplish this is to use your bolo to bring her down. Remember to aim low for the ankles to avoid the danger of throttling her if she tries to duck. It's better to risk missing a low throw than to aim high and waste a good victim.

If you miss your throw, or if you prefer that personal touch in your work, there is always the good old fashioned tackle. If this method is employed, be sure to hit her hard and unexpectedly, trying to knock the wind out of her for a few moments. Remember she hasn't been searched for weapons yet, and the sudden introduction of a knife or cooking hatchet into your wrestling match could re-write the ending.

For the more sporting of our brothers, there is always the technique of patience! Remember your Eastern heritage and outwait her. She's only human (if not, you don't really want her anyway) and eventually she'll stop running, although some have been known to run for a long time. (Note: the current record is held by a man who, chased by Morbis, ran non-stop for over 10 hours. When he finally broke out of his jog and tried to close with a sprint he discovered himself fatigued

and collapsed without reaching his goal. She would have escaped had she not come back to see if he was all right!)

Now that she's downed and cleared of hidden weapons other than those given her by nature, it is advised to bind her wrists securely, preferably behind her back. While it may be picturesque as hell to carry her off kicking and screaming, beating feebly at your hairy chest with her fists, it is pointless to search her for weapons, then leave her hands free to arm herself from your belt weapons! Also remember to keep an eye on your surroundings while you are binding her. While we crow a lot about our shrewdness, this is not an exclusive trait, and your prize may be bait for a trap. After having successfully outmaneuvered scores of well-trained fighting men, it would be humiliating to meet your end at the hands of a child with a rock! Bad press for the Sword Brothers and all that - you know.

All that is left is to carry her off. If she is hefty, you will undoubtedly have to call on one of your Brothers to assist you. If so, be prepared to be ridiculed for your choice, if not by him then by the minstrels, for the word will undoubtedly spread. However, if your prize is a dainty morsel, you will doubtless wish to attempt the chore yourself and avoid tipping the help. If one of her kicks was perhaps better aimed than the others, you may wish to drag her off by her hair. It must be cautioned that this method can damage the prize you've fought so hard for and will do nothing toward raising her already low opinion of you. Remember that even though your immediate desire has been cut short, it will hopefully return on the morrow. Far better is the over-the-shoulder carry which leaves your sword arm free in case there are a few enemies that somehow escaped the general slaughter. I suppose we should also mention the under-the-arm carry, if for no other reason than it is still used (Emir Alamar Gadua is rumoed to have once carried off two wenches at once using this carry) but it is generally considered by purists as being a bit on the show-offish side!

Once she is secured in your yurt, what you do with her is your own affair. If you don't know what to do, don't admit it, or the Brother you ask for information may decide a demonstration is quicker than an explanation. If you allow this to occur, you may have difficulty proving prior claim! (You know how we love t play tricks on each other.)

In closng, it should be noted that this section covers the abduction of women in a secured area only!! To attempt these techniques in the face of an armed camp is to court disaster. For abduction requiring stealth, refer to Section XXV, Infiltration, Exfiltration, and Extraction, sub-section D, Souvenirs.

THE DIPLOMATIC POUCH

JOHN J. BESHARA: It was a particular delight seeing Bob Lipton's splendid article in GRAUSTARK #301. I've long wanted the Russian progressions published and suggested the project to Bob at the time of his first stalemate article.

There is another position that should be included in Bob's configurations:

Armies: Arm, Den, Livonia, Mos, St. P, Sev.

Fleets: Aeg, Bal, Con, Eas, Eng, Mid, Por.

Supply Centers: Ank, Con, Den, Edi, Liv, Lon, Mos, Nwy, Por, St. P, Sev, Smy, Swe. (13)

Moves: A Arm S A Sev; A St. P & A Liv S A Mos; F Bal S A Liv; F Con & F Eas S F Aeg; F Eng & F Por S F Mid.

The position is different in that it is not necessary to occupy Ukraina in order to hold Moscow and Sevastopol, so long as the Aegean is controlled!

The progression continues by transferring A Arm-Ukr and removing F Bal. Then, A St.P S A Liv; A Mos & A Sev S A Ukr. Thus, more space is held with only 12 units, making Denmark expendable. With the extra unit available, there are alternate courses of expansion:

(1) Bulgaria may be secured supported by F Con and the addition of F Bla. Then Rumania may be held too.

(2) Expansion into Warsaw is easily accomplished with the same 12 units now owning 14 supply centers. Two fleets could be added to anchor Holland, establishing a base for further progress.

(3) Movement in continental Europe follows progressions I've set forth in articles in Wazir.

HAVE A SKANDALOUS CHRISTMAS!

Regular readers of GRAUSTARK and FREEDONIA are familiar with the peculiar institutions of the Kingdom of Skandalutz, oldest of the Four And A Half Kingdoms of the Balkan Massif. (See FREEDONIA #47 for details.) Al Nofi, the Royal Historian of Skandalutz, has passed along the following advertisement. Regrettably, it arrived too late for this year's Winter Solstice, but perhaps some of our readers will want to take in next year's festivities.

THE WINTER SOLSTICE IS APPROACHING! THIS YEAR, WHY NOT SPEND IT IN SKANDALUTZ.

Skandaltours, in cooperation with Air Skandalutz, wants to make this year the year in which you finally make a pilgrimage to Skandalutz' sacred Winter Solstice Festival. Beginning on December 16, 1973 special reduced rate seven-day excursion flights will be available to Anakhit, the ancient and beautiful capital of Skandalutz, where, each Winter Solstice, the most sacred ceremonies in the Skandalous religion are held. Why not take this opportunity now, while you're still young enough to enjoy it?

See: The Sacred Feast, which concludes the reign of each Year-King!

See: The Selection of the Year-King for 1974!

See: The Titanian Guard assume the task of protecting the new Year-King!

Participate in the Sacred Orgy!

Enjoy the company of a Learned Priestess!

Experience the religious ecstasies which have moved and thrilled millions throughout history!

This Year, Come to Skandalutz!

For further information, consult your travel agent or Messrs. Boardman and Nofi, Skandaltours, New York, N. Y.

Conditions: All passengers are advised to be prepared to pass stringent border-inspection and processing procedures upon arrival in Anakhit International Airport. Passengers failing to return within 7 days will not have their fare rebated on a pro-rata basis. Any passenger who is lucky enough to enjoy election to the dignity of Year-King will have his entire fare refunded to his heirs. The carrier assumes no responsibility for any passenger who is sufficiently barbarous and tradition-bound as to find our ancient and deeply religious ceremonies offensive. Consider yourself warned!

Note: Air Skandalutz will be happy to arrange for an extension of your seven-day excursion to include an additional fourteen-day tour to the other countries in the Balkan Massif, except that there are no flights to Polykarpolis this season.

1973BC - PRESS RELEASES

EASTON, P. A. (IDUI NO): On hearing evidence put forward by the Woodmere firm of Kinney, Lipschwitz & Boringman: Synthesists, the executive council of the American Synthesist Society has revoked the Synthesist Licence First Class of the Brooklyn firm of the Bureau of Usually Reliable Sources, International Travelers, and Intelligence Spokesmen, and replaced it with a second-class licence.

The terms of the second-class licence require that the dispatches of an agency holding such a licence be supervised by a holder of a first-class licence until a request for examination for a first-class licence may be carried out.

Checking the records, we find that the firm of Bangs Leslie Tapscott and Associates is set to supervise a second-class synthesist firm. If ample and sufficient reason is not forthcoming by December 29, 1973, why Tapscott and Associates should not perform this service (which protects the public), they will carry out this function, commencing January 1, 1974. Please fill out form 283-B in quintuplicate for permission to take the examination for a first-class licence.

/s/ Irving T. Schlotz
President, ASS

BROOKLYN (URRP): The Bureau of Usually Reliable Spokesmen, International Travelers, and Intelligence Spokesmen rejected its proposed accountability to the firm of Tapscott and Associates, on the grounds that no such firm exists. "According to two travelers named Hylas and Philonous," BURSITIS said, "Bangs Leslie Tapscott spends all his time in a cave on the Desert of Descret, sitting with his back to the entrance and watching shadow pictures on the wall. He reportedly took up this activity after learning that he was descended from the medieval Welsh anchorite St. David the Hermite."

VEY, IZMIR (Jan. 3, 1905, CRABS): In the midst of the victory worship service of the new Catholic-Mithra religion, it was announced that the "pre-emptive retaliation" strike on Naples had been carried out. Whether by coincidence or not, Vesuvius erupted. Spokesmen for the International Clearinghouse for Syncretistic Religions hinted that Mithra, being a god of fire, was expressing his approval of Turkish activities in the Mediterranean basin!

1973BS - PRESS RELEASES

BERN, SWITZERLAND (22 Dec. 1904, Centripedal Alliance of Ticklish Newsdores Independent Press): The cataclysmic events of the European war have inspired the reactivation of your friendly neighborhood high-quality Grade-A news service.

KIEL, GERMANY (23 Dec. 1904, CATNIP): An acute commentator caustically questioned the quizzically capricious, catastrophically inclined activities of the great powers: "People who lose the war in order to stab Germany have rather strange priorities..."

BERLIN (23 Dec. 1904, CATNIP): The fellow-in-charge of coordinating German military activity was seen furtively slipping a press release into this agency's mail receptacle early this morning. The gist of the release was a declaration of the grim, iron-willed resolve of his plucky, intrepid armies to do something illegible.

73.20b - PRESS RELEASE

NEW RACKATZOFF, FRANCE (EEE, Africa): King Alexander annulls election! New election called! "They'll do it till they get it right," King Alexander was rumored to have said. However, in one attempt to save money, King Alexander said that a major Cologne (pun intended) manufacturer had paid the government for the right to have all diplomats wear their cologne and after-shave. Therefore all French Political Factors will be called Max Factors.

"Fall 1936"

73.2lh

SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

FRANCE: Als C!

RUSSIA: Rum C!

The score is now USA 23, France 6, Germany 4, Russia 3, Britain 2. The deadline for "Spring 1937" moves is NOON, SATURDAY 19 JANUARY 1974.

	USA	Fra	Bri	Rus	Ger
Als	C				
Aus					C
Bal			5	4	
Bri					
Cze	2	2	U,11		
Fra					
Ger					21
Ita					
Pol	4	2			
Rhi					
Rum					
Rus				2	
USA					

SO MUCH FOR "ROLL-YOUR-OWN"

A few months ago I was afflicted with a bright idea concerning Origins. I thought it might be interesting to let the players work out their own National Objectives, and in FREEDOMIA #56 the player list was published. Edi Birsan gave the game the Arena number 73.6x, and the players' self-selected National Objectives were published in GRAUSTARK #291.

	1935	1936	1937	1938	1939	1940
USA: Rick Stuart (dro F36)	0	0	0	0	0	14
Tim Carleton	USA	0	0	0	0	14
FRANCE: Bill Drakert	FRANCE	24	24	24	24	24
BRITAIN: Dick Trtek	BRITAIN	22	22	22	19	19
RUSSIA: John Hendry	RUSSIA	3	3	3	6	6
GERMANY: Ronald Kelly	GERMANY	1	1	1	4	12

This roster and supply center chart really says it all. Britain and France, in alliance, chose negative objectives, while Germany and Russia, also in alliance, chose positive objectives. As running commentary in the letter columns makes clear, the game was uninteresting, and scarcely worth the time and energy given to it.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY

As part of a bad joke in GRAUSTARK #299, I happened to mention that I am descended from a 17th-century persecutor of Quakers named Resolved Waldron, who was sheriff of Nieuw Amsterdam during the Stuyvesant administration. Much to my surprise, John Leeder wrote me from Huntsville, Ontario (where he publishes Arrakis, another postal Diplomacy 'zine) that he is also descended from Resolved Waldron. After comparing notes, I determined that he and I are ninth cousins, twice removed. His forebears, it seems, had to move hastily to Canada just after the American Revolution.

*

In Hoosier Archives #128, Walter Buchanan published a list of postal Diplomacy publishers who are no longer active. In accordance with the information on this list, I am formally terminating trades with the following people: Peter Ansoff, Steve Cooper.

*

Entries for the Fall of Rome tournament will close two weeks from today: Saturday, 12 January 1974. (See GRAUSTARK #302 for details.) The 6th (Belisarius) scenario will be played; each player will face the same non-Roman effects, and the one who does best will get his entry fee refunded, and a free 12-issue subscription to GRAUSTARK. The entry fee is \$4. Fall of Rome is published by Simulations Publications Inc., 44 E. 23rd St., New York, N. Y. 10010. Its price is \$7.

(continued on p. 11)

THE ALMAGEST AND THE CONSTITUTION

[A few readers have asked me whether my recently announced support for President Nixon is sincere. I want to assure them that it is, and express my regret that the question should have arisen. I trust that we are still at a state where a man may sincerely confess and repudiate past mistakes without being thought a hypocrite! Indeed, I hope that my arguments in favor of the President's position might carry conviction where those of his long-time supporters might not.

[Those people who still maintain opposition to President Nixon are playing a deeply dangerous game. In the New York Post of 4 December, an expanded version of the Enemy List was made public. It included the name of a 75-year-old Polish-American widow in Milwaukee who contributed money to the Muskie campaign because she wanted to see a Lantzman in the White House. If people like this get on the Enemy List - which now covers 28 pages in the Senate record of the 'Watergate' hearings - then more outspoken critics of the President had better start getting right with him at once.]

About the middle of the second century of this era, a mammoth encyclopedia of astronomy was compiled by a Greek-Egyptian scholar named Claudius Ptolemaios, or Ptolemy (no relation, as far as is known, to the royal house of that name). Though it contained little original material, it was a compendium of the work of previous astronomers. It described what came to be called the 'Ptolemaic' system of the universe: the Earth at the center, immovable; the Sun and Moon and 'other' planets going around it in a complicated system of deferents and epicycles, and the 'fixed' stars in the outermost sphere encompassing it all. It also included instructions on how to cast horoscopes.

The Greeks called this book Megale Syntaxis, but later Arab scholars named it Almagest, and it is known today by that name. It became the standard of orthodoxy in astronomy all through the Middle Ages. In the 13th century King Alfonso X of Castilla questioned its conclusions, but his royal status saved him from trouble with the Church, which had by then endorsed Ptolemy's views. On his deathbed in 1543, Copernicus published his famous theory that the Sun rather than the Earth is the center of the planetary system. Ptolemaic astronomy, aided by the endorsement of the Church of Rome and its unlikely ally Martin Luther, hung on for a century more. By 1650 almost every astronomer not dependent upon religious authority for his job had announced his support of the Copernican theory.

In our time, the history of science is taught in such a way that the Almagest and Ptolemaic astronomy are the butt of much academic humor. The very idea that men could support the Almagest in the face of observational evidence to the contrary seems ridiculous to our pragmatic day and age!

Yet, in the field of political science, Ptolemaic concepts still dominate. If anyone were to cite the Almagest and say, "The Earth is the center of the Universe - here's an ancient document that says so," he would be laughed out of his university. And yet people are still trying to argue, "There are limitations on the power of the President of the United States - here's an ancient document that says so."

This 'ancient document' is the Constitution, an anthology of 18th-century political utopianism which has somehow got mixed up with the serious business of governing and living in the United States of America! Anyone who bothers to read it can see that it bears about as much resemblance to the actual governance of the United States as the Almagest does to the actual motions of the Solar System.

And yet people still cite this outdated document in opposition to the acts and policies of the government of the United States. During the poli-

tical controversies of the past year, it has become almost axiomatic: anyone who invokes the Constitution is trying to make a case against His Excellency the President of the United States of America, Richard M. Nixon.

It might be worth while at this point actually to examine this much-cited document and see what it says about government. For example, Article I, Section 8, Paragraph 11 states that "The Congress shall have power...to declare war." Yet, since World War II ended, the United States has engaged in two wars (Korea and Vietnam) and numerous other actions, mobilizing a total of nearly 19 million men, of whom about 130,000 died in service. Neither of these wars were authorized by a congressional declaration of war. The Constitution can no more account for this than the Almagest can account for the moons of Jupiter.

In 1964, the Republican Party nominated for the presidency a man who, if you believe this 18th-century Constitution, was ineligible for the job under Article II, Section 1, Paragraph 4. (General Goldwater was not born in any of the United States of America, but in Arizona Territory.) Yet there is no doubt that, had he won the election, he would have been inaugurated despite the Constitution.

More recently, we have seen other examples of this sort of thing. If you believe that the Constitution is valid law, then Vice President Ford and Attorney-General Saxbe are ineligible under Article I, Section 6, Paragraph 2. Yet both men were appointed and confirmed without regard for this antiquated document. Therefore, no one can reasonably argue that this 18th-century Constitution has any reasonable relationship to the actual conditions under which we live in this year of 1973.

The "Bill of Rights" is equally invalid. If its 1st article is to be believed, there utterly no limitation on any expression of any opinion, or on any sort of printed matter. The statement "Congress shall make no law...abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press..." would be a licence for pornography, obscenity, incitement to riot or mutiny, libel, slander, and any number of other anti-social acts. The Supreme Court's recent decisions on the field of obscenity law have totally demolished the illusion that this clause has any validity in US law.

What, then, is the Constitution?? At its best, it is a collection of 18th-century ideas that may sound well, but which cannot be applied in real world inhabited by real human beings. At its worst, it is an attempt by 18th-century revolutionaries to make things easier for 19th- and 20th-century revolutionaries. How well they have succeeded may be seen by the fact that both 19th-century Confederates and 20th-century Communists have claimed Thomas Jefferson as a man whose ideas anticipated their own.

On what authority, then, does President Nixon rule us? He rules by the same title that all governments have ruled, through all the millenia of human history - by his possession of authority. When he was asked whether we should serve God or Caesar, Jesus Christ took out one of Caesar's coins and asked: "Whose head is this? Whose name?" (Mark 12:16) That is to say, who does in actual fact exercise the functions of a ruler? The answer is obvious.

So let us hear no more of the Constitution in politics, just as we hear no more of the Almagest in astronomy. Both documents represent an obsolete phase in their respective fields, where the authority of an ancient document was believed by preference to the observations and experiences of real-life people in contemporary societies using the most up-to-date methods of examining doubtful matters.

*

GRAUSTARK back issues now available are 131, 137, 139, 167, 171, 199, 200, 202, 206, 239, 248-250, 252, 253, 257-259, 271, 273-283, 285-287, 289, 291 to date! They are 10 for \$1 except for 289, 296 & 300 - 50¢ each.

THE MINISTRY OF MISCELLANY (continued from p. 8)

* *

My apologies for the variety of peculiar type-faces which have appeared in recent GRAUSTARKS. My Sears Forecast 12 was in the shop for some repairs, and the IBM Selectric on which I sometimes cut GRAUSTARK stencils had its 'golf-ball' out of alignment. This threw me back to an old Royal portable which is older than half the GRAUSTARK readership. Fortunately, the Sears machine is now back in order.

* *

"William D. Ruckelshaus, former Deputy Attorney General, former acting FBI director and former Environmental Protection Administrator, has, in the line of high government duty, occupied some pretty fancy quarters. Now he works out of a small, windowless office... While he was running [EPA] he had dominion over 10,000 people. Now he has one secretary." - Mary McGrory, New York Post, 17 December 1973

Now - is there anyone else out there who thinks he knows better than the President of the United States? *

According to the best available information, the postal rate increases next month will not involve third-class mail or overseas mail. The following subscription rates for GRAUSTARK are therefore effective:

Subscriptions in the United States and Canada are 12 issues for \$2. Overseas subscriptions are 8 issues for \$2.00 or 10 for £1.00 by first-class mail. Overseas air mail subscriptions are 8 for \$4.00 or 10 for £2.00. Back issues are 10 for \$1.00 or 24 for £1.00, in the US or overseas. (For a list of available back issues, see p. 10.)

A complete file of back issues of FREEDOMIA, a 'zine for Origins of World War II, is still \$1.50. This comprises 29 issues. This is

Diplomacy was . . . ed by Allan B. Calhamer, and is published by Games Research Inc., 500 Harrison Ave., Boston, Mass. 02118. Origins of World War II was designed by Jim Dunnigan and is published by Avalon-Hill, 4517 Hartford Road, Baltimore, Md. 21214. *

Are you a stand-by player for a GRAUSTARK postal Diplomacy game? Then be sure you've read the instructions for non-paying stand-bys on p. 11 of GRAUSTARK #302.

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* Has anyone else noticed that, as postal rates go up, the efficiency with which the stamps are cancelled goes down? I suppose this is a sort of partial rebate from a conscience-stricken Postal Service, making it possible to get two usages out of one over-priced stamp. When first class mail was 3¢ per ounce, almost no stamps made it through the mails without being cancelled. Now that it is 8¢ per ounce, almost every week brings 2 or 3 of them. With the 10¢ per ounce rate, we may be able to re-use nearly all of them. And not just re-use them once, either. A few weeks ago I got a letter from Evan Jones, on which the stamp was unmarked. When I soaked it off for re-use, I found that it was attached with a heavier mucilage than the USPS uses - a sign that it had already gone through the mails once before coming from Evan to me.

*

"...as Robert Sherrill says in The Saturday Night Special, we should be candid with ourselves: Gun victims are rarely middle-class folks; they are the 'refuse' (he puts it bluntly) of our 'trashy' society, mostly criminals or people who 'wouldn't have come to much' anyway... May we not, all things considered, 'fairly ask ourselves if the typical victim of gunfire cannot be spared?'" - Eric Redman, New York Times Book Review, 9 December 1973

*

Terry Kuch has replied to my speculations over Lewis Carroll's use, and Edward Gibbon's failure to use, the term "dormouse". (GRAUSTARK #300, p. 49) He writes:

"DORMOUSE: Used metaphorically as early as 1569, so used by Milton (1641), Shakespeare (1601), and used literally from 1425, and so used in a translation of Pliny (1601). The Greek is dormaous or muoxos, the Spanish is Lirón, and the German is Haselmaus (=hazel-mouse), although Benét (Readers' Encyclopedias) says it is Schlafratte, which is colloquial German! Martin Gardner opines that Carroll's dormouse was modeled after Dante Gabriel Rossetti's pet wombat."

For this information, much thanks. According to Will Cuppy's famous How to Attract the Wombat, the Rossetti wombat slept in a silver epergne in the middle of their dining-room table. Carroll visited them from time to time, and from the somnolent wombat he may have picked up the notion of his dormouse. As for Gibbon, he probably never bothered to read Pliny or any other ancient author in English translation.

*

John Pachak participated in two of the Origins games published in GRAUSTARK #300, but I can't send him his complimentary copy because I don't have his address. Does anybody know it?

*

To the stand-by list in GRAUSTARK #302, the following name is added: Harvey Krigsman, 221 McDonald Avenue, Brooklyn, N. Y. 11218; 212-TR 1-7867.

1972A

"Spring 1915"

Would you believe that the Gamesmaster did it again? I recorded the "Spring 1915" move of England as "F Mid-Por" when it was actually "F Mid holds". As such, it was supported by the French F Por and the Turkish F Naf. Accordingly the following German moves fail: F Spa(s.c.)-Mid; A Gas-Spa; A Mar S A Gas-Spa; A Bur-Gas.

Normally I would have informed all players and allowed the "Fall 1915" deadline to stand. However, Peter Ansoff is now out of the country, and some of the other players may also be temporarily away from home owing to the holidays. Therefore, the deadline for "Fall 1915" moves is re-set to NOON, SATURDAY 19 JANUARY 1974. Votes for a draw, already submitted, will stand. If all players concur by this deadline it will be so ordered; if not, "Fall 1915" moves will be adjudicated.

GRAUSTARK #303

John Boardman
234 East 19th Street
Brooklyn, New York 11226
U. S. A.

"APOLLONIUS: When the Teutons become civilized at home, they will no longer invade the Roman Empire.

"ROMULUS: When the Teutons come to Italia or Gaul, we will civilize them. But if they remain in Germany, they will文明ize themselves and that will be ghastly."

- Friedrich Dürrenmatt,
Romulus the Great

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